

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

14. (Amended) A pluripotent embryonic-like stem cell, derived from non-embryonic or postnatal animal cells or tissue, capable of self-renewal and capable of differentiation to cells of any of endodermal, ectodermal and mesodermal lineages, genetically engineered to express a gene or protein of interest.

15. (Amended) A method of producing a genetically engineered pluripotent embryonic-like stem cell comprising the steps of:

(a) transfecting pluripotent embryonic-like stem cells, derived from non-embryonic or postnatal animal cells or tissue, capable of self-renewal and capable of differentiation to cells of any of endodermal, ectodermal and mesodermal lineages, with a DNA construct comprising at least one of a marker gene or a gene of interest;

(b) selecting for expression of the marker gene or gene of interest in the pluripotent embryonic-like stem cells;

(c) culturing the stem cells selected in (b).